

PICTURE OF THE MONTH

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Arctic pack ice, ice floes, and sea ice fragments often can be seen clearly in satellite pictures. Satellite photographs often show ice formations with accompanying or adjacent cloudiness. The TIROS VIII photograph shown here is such a case.

This photograph shows an ice pack off Baffin Island. Its edge in the Davis Strait is marked by C. The dark areas to the east of points D and E are shore leads formed along the coast of Baffin Island by off-shore winds and tidal fluctuations.

The clouds photographed in this pass, in the area surrounding F, lie over the Davis Strait. These cumuliform

clouds formed as cold air moved from the snow covered land and the pack ice to the warm waters of the Strait. The northwesterly flow is reflected in the bandedness of the cloud field. Of interest is the increase in size and development of the cumulus bands in the area south of 60° N. and between 50° and 60° W. In this area, to the east of the Labrador Current, the ocean is warmed by the Irminger Current, a branch of the Gulf Stream.

Greenland appears at the right side of the picture. The easterly flow off the continent has produced a cloud-free area, west of G, and a brighter and broader, north-south cloud band, H-H', where it meets the northwesterly flow.

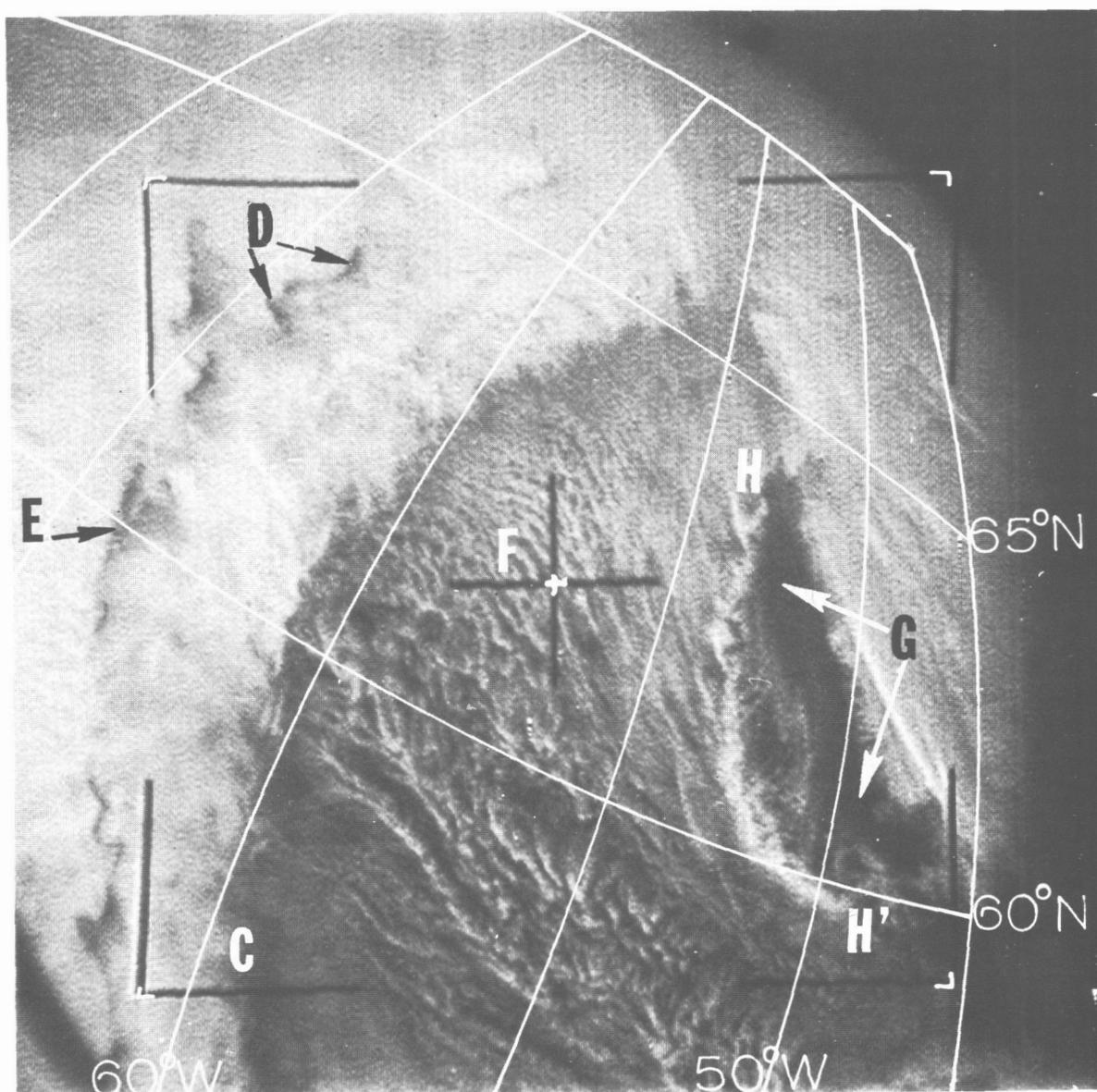


FIGURE 1.—TIROS VIII, pass 976/975, C1, Fr 13, 1601 GMT, February 26, 1964.